

Intro Music (Optional)

NARRATOR

Our story begins one fateful night on the lone midwestern plains. The prairie is illuminated by the orange hue of candlelight, emanating from the windows of a quaint cottage. A cottage in which the Valpadario family resides. The candles give off their glow as the melt with the heat...of passion.

DARIO

I can't believe this.

VAL

What is it my darling?

DARIO

The paper...it's horrible.

VAL

Well what does it say my love?

DARIO

A horrible wagon crash outside of the city. Twelve men are dead. Twenty are injured.

VAL

Oh my, how horrible. You know, when these things happen, it makes me all the more grateful that we're alive.

Music: Dramatic Music.

VAL

But wait!

DARIO

What is it my darling?!

VAL

Our son! Our son Parvaldrio! Wasn't he going toward the city in a wagon?!

DARIO
My god! My god, you're right!

VAL
Oh my lord! My boy! What if our baby boy is... what if
Parvaldrio is-

SFX: Slap.

DARIO
Keep yourself together!

VAL
I'm sorry, I was hysterical.

DARIO
Our son is very much alive. I won't have any talk otherwise.

SFX: Door Knock/Lightning Strike.

VAL
Oh it's my boy, it's my boy Parvaldrio!

SFX: Door Opening. The DEADTELLER speaks.

DEADTELLER
Hello, it is I, the Deadteller, the teller of the dead.

VAL
Tell me, what of my son?

DEADTELLER
He's dead. Good day.

SFX: Shutting Door.

VAL
(Crying)
Oh my baby boy!

DARIO

It isn't true! I know it isn't true! God damn the city!
It's no place for-

SFX: Knock at Door/Door Opening

VAL

Deadteller, you're back!

DARIO

Is it possible you've made a mistake?

DEADTELLER

Yes, it is possible a mistake has been made.

SFX: Paper Unfolding.

DEADTELLER

Is this the cottage of the Valpadario family? Home of Val and
Dario Valpadario?

VAL/DARIO

Yes!

DEADTERLLER

Parents of Parvaldrio Valpadario?

VAL/DARIO

Yes!

DEADTELLER

Ah my mistake.

VAL

There's been a mistake!?

DEADTELLER

Yes, I was right the first time, good day.

SFX: Door Closing.

VAL
My baby boy!

DARIO
God damn the city and god damn this prairie and god damn these
candles which burns so bright illuminating this prairie,
melting with-

SFX: Knock at the Door/Door Opening.

VAL
My baby boy!

PARVALDRIO
Mother, father, I've returned.

DARIO
Son, I can't believe it's truly you.

VAL
But if you're alive, how is it possible that the Deathteller-
SFX: Slap.

DARIO
Damn it woman, why question good fortune?!

VAL
(Sobbing)
Oh I just don't know what to do with these emotions I'm
having!

SFX: Slap.

PARVALDRIO
Did that keep your emotions at bay?

VAL
Yes, I'm no longer hysterical, thank you Parvaldrio. I love
you, son.

PARVALDRIO

I can't keep up this charade anymore!

SFX: Tearing.

VAL

Oh! New emotions! I feel faint!

SFX: Collapsing.

DARIO

Who are you?! What have you done with our son?! Where is
Parvaldrío?!

PARVALDRIO

Your son is dead.

DARIO

No! God damn the city! And god damn this prairie and this
cottage which sits on this prairie! And damn the candles
which melt, lighting this cottage which sits on the prairie!
And damn you! Where is my son!

PARVALDRIO

He was killed in a great wagon crash. In his last words, he
told me to cut off his face, and wear it here, pretending to
be him. But I cannot pretend anymore. For I have fallen in
love. I've fallen in love with one of his kin.

DARIO

Falling in love with a dead man's mother! I should kill you!

PARVALDRIO

No, Dario. I've fallen in love with a dead man's father.

SFX: Kissing.

PARVALDRIO (CONT'D)

Come with me let's leave behind this goddamn prairie, and this
goddamn city, and this goddamn life. It's the only way for us
to be happy.

DARIO
You're right.

VAL
But Dario, my love, what of me?!

DARIO
I will leave you this cabin to remember me by.

SFX: Door Shutting.

VAL
What will become of me, Val Valpadario!?

SFX: Knock at the Door/Door Opening

DEATHTELLER
Val Valpadario?

VAL
Yes?

DEATHTELLER
Your husband and his new lover are dead. Good day.

NARRATOR
And so ends our tale of love and loss on this moonlit prairie
night.

Outro Music.